

CATAWBA COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Overview

The County's Capital Improvement Plan is a five-year plan for the scheduling and appropriation of funds for major projects representing significant contributions to the County's overall inventory of physical assets. The types of projects traditionally included in the CIP are major non-recurring expenditures for the:

- construction, purchase or major renovation of buildings, utility systems, schools, solid waste, parks, or other physical structures
- purchase of land for utilities, right of way, schools, solid waste, parks, and sites associated with proposed public buildings
- purchase and implementation of technology
- stimulation of economic development

To be considered as a project in the CIP, the project must meet the following criteria:

- project or equipment life of greater than five years
- estimated cost of at least \$100,000

The CIP is a planning tool as well as a financial plan and fulfills the County's policy of planning ahead for our future facilities and equipment needs. The first year of the CIP represents the actual capital project budget appropriated for that year. Approval of the CIP therefore commits the County to the first year of the capital projects with conditional approval for those projects listed in the four future planning years. Each year, the CIP is updated (with deletion of the "prior year" data and the addition of a planning year) to maintain a five-year plan.

The CIP preparation is concurrent with the budget process. In the fall of each year, all County departments submit their budget requests along with any capital projects for consideration and inclusion in the CIP. The requests are reviewed by the Facilities Director and the Budget Staff and submitted to the County Manager as part of the year's recommended budget.

Capital Projects Fund accounts for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities and include the following:

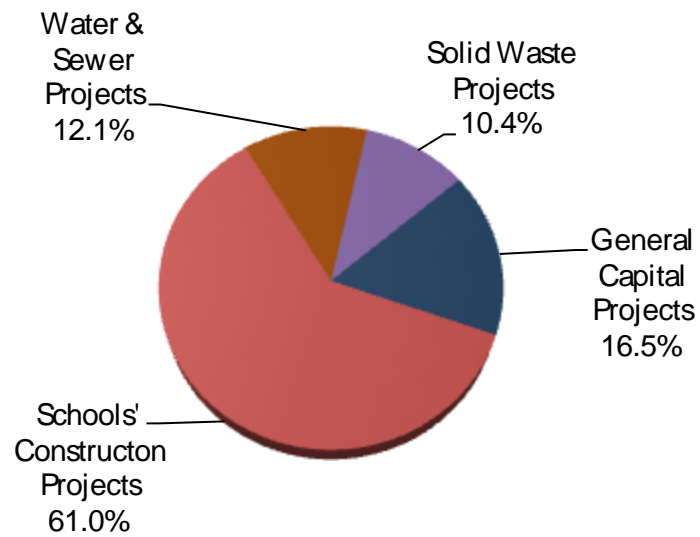
General Capital Projects Fund - to account for the financing and construction of all major general government capital projects.

Water & Sewer Construction Fund - to account for the financing and construction of all major water and sewer capital projects in the unincorporated sections of the County.

Schools' Capital & Construction Fund – to account for the financing and construction of all major capital projects for the three school systems and community college.

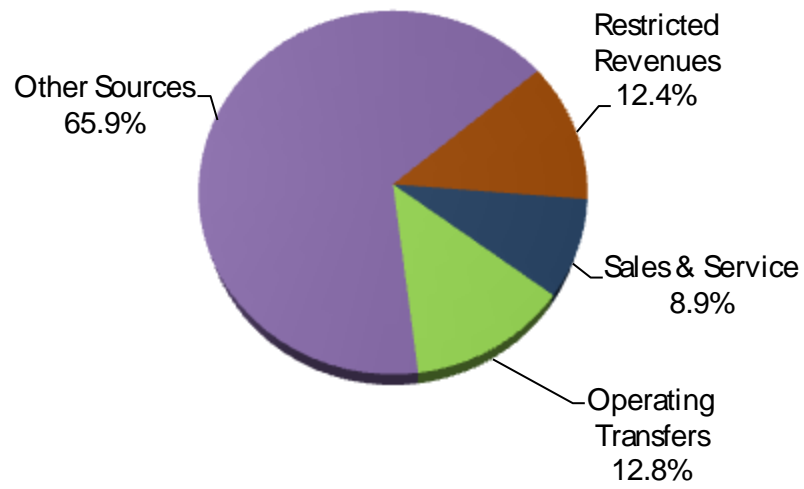
Capital Projects Expenditure Summary

Fiscal Year 2007/08

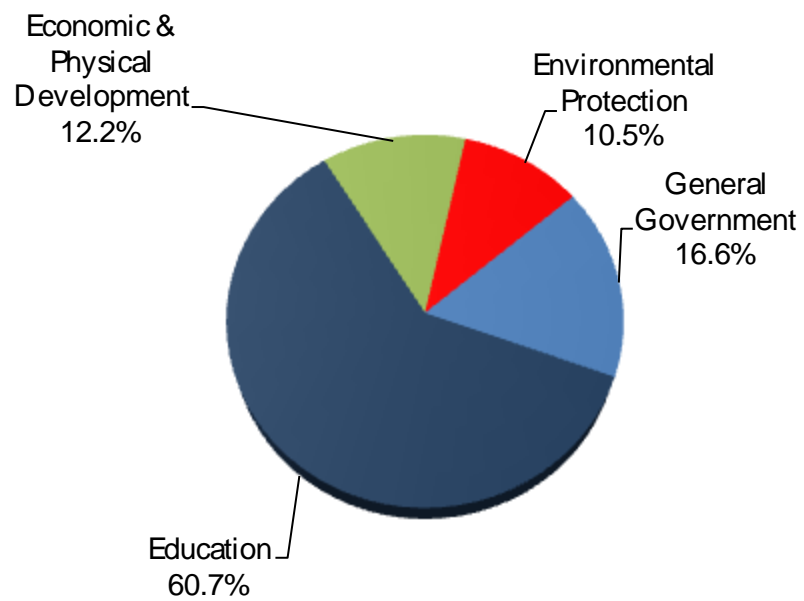


Capital Projects Funding Summary

Fiscal Year 2007/08



Expenditures by Service Area Fiscal Year 2007/08



General Capital Projects

General Renovations

General Renovations is being moved from General Capital Projects to the General Fund Maintenance budget in Fiscal Year 2007/08. \$153,000 is planned for Fiscal Year 2007/08 based on the following identified needs: carpeting in the District Attorney's Office and Family Court – Justice Center, repaving the parking lot – Social Services, roofing – 1924 Courthouse. In addition, this provides \$30,000 for unanticipated, large building needs that may occur during the year.

Animal Shelter

Currently there is no cooling system for the animal holding areas in the main kennel. An exhaust fan system is in place, but it does not provide adequate ventilation in all areas of the kennel or meet the recommended air change every 12 minutes. Temperatures in the shelter, particularly during the summer months, often exceed the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Veterinary Division guidelines. Heat and humidity are major concerns within the shelter because they allow diseases to spread more easily among the animals. \$95,000 is planned for Fiscal Year 2009/10.

The majority of animals coming into the shelter are owner surrenders or stray animals, many of which have not been properly vaccinated. Currently all animals enter and exit the shelter through the same area, potentially exposing healthy animals to a wide variety of contagious diseases. Animals entering the shelter need to be held in an intake/receiving area until treated and/or vaccinated so that they can be moved into the general population of animals or euthanized if sick and not reclaimed by the owner. Renovation will include laying appropriate floor, updating drainage and plumbing, removing at least one of the garage doors to create more usable wall space. \$174,000 is planned for Fiscal Year 2011/12 to build an addition to include a public lobby and office area for intake/receiving, treatment room for animals, and storage area.

The existing administrative offices are too small to house all of the officers and provide inadequate storage space for records. Perishable food items and other equipment/items that are sensitive to weather conditions must be stored in an outside storage shed. There is no space for officers to meet with citizens in a private area. \$320,320 is planned in Fiscal Year 2014/15 to construct a 2,300 square foot addition to existing building to house administrative and animal control offices.

Contingency

Catawba County does not budget contingency in each individual project, but uses one amount to cover any unexpected costs.

Election Equipment Upgrade

Notebook computers are being used in each precinct to quickly verify voting registration and to identify which ballot each voter is supposed to receive. By Fiscal Year 2008/09, the notebook computers will be five years old and in need of replacement. \$65,000 is planned to

replace these computers at that time. These notebooks will need to be replaced again in by Fiscal Year 2013/14 at a projected cost of \$71,500.

Joint Rescue/EMS Base

This moves funds from fund balance that were the result of closing out the Oxford EMS/Fire project in the amount of \$387,447 and sets funding aside for future Joint Rescue/EMS Base needs.

Microsoft Licensing

The County must purchase software license in order to use said software. The Information Technology Center has developed a long-term plan to keep the County in compliance. \$100,000 is committed each year for the project. This amount will increase to \$125,000 in Fiscal Year 2008/09.

Mobile Field Applications

Funds were included in Fiscal Year 2005/06 to begin a multi-departmental implementation of mobile applications starting with mobile building inspections. This capability will be expanded to other areas using monies assigned to a project fund over the next two budget years. Some advantages of using this technology are to provide current information to employees, customers, and patients in a more timely manner, reduce time spent by field staff in the office, eliminate the need for office space in some areas, and reduce redundant data entry. Efforts in Fiscal Year 2007/08 will focus on improving technology available to public safety officers in the field including the ability to conduct silent dispatch with automatic GPS routing to calls of the closest available law enforcement and EMS units; the ability to update incident reports and unit status; and run queries against agency, State and Federal records. \$261,000 is included in Fiscal Year 2007/08 to expand this project.

Orthophoto Upgrade

In Fiscal Year 2008/09, GIS will update aerial photography. Project costs include a contract to update aerial photos, administration costs, and purchasing additional disk storage. Aerial photography has consistently been updated every four years, which coincides with the re-evaluation schedule. In addition, as part of the regional ortho project, the participants agreed to update as a group every 4 years. Maintaining that schedule, the next fly-over will take place in spring 2009 and then again in spring 2013. \$78,268 will be added to the balance left from the last fly-over for a total of \$125,000 in Fiscal Year 2008/09. The County will fund the project as follows: \$30,125 from municipalities, \$25,000 from the Emergency Telephone Fund, \$25,000 from the Wireless 911 Fund. In Fiscal Year 2012/13 the flyover is projected to cost \$135,000 funded as follows: \$32,535 from municipalities, \$27,500 from the Emergency Telephone Fund, \$27,500 from the Wireless 911 Fund.

Permitting and Inspections System Replacement

Currently, the County uses Accela Automation for processing inspections in Utilities and Engineering, Environmental Health, Planning & Zoning, the Fire Marshal's Office, and the City of Hickory Planning agencies. The Tax Office, GIS, Legal Services, and Finance also use the systems to provide services. The Accela Corporation has

two platforms that are available for use: Client/server (legacy version) and a Web-based platform. We are currently utilizing the legacy version. In the coming years (two to three), there will be a need to move to the Web-based platform to allow increased information sharing, but also because of decisions made by Accela to no longer support the client/server legacy platform. A total of \$350,000 will be set aside from Fiscal Years 2006/07 through 2011/12 to provide for these upgrades.

Library Expansion

A Library System Master Plan has been completed identifying needs with regards to space, operating efficiencies, and location issues. \$375,000 is planned for Fiscal Years 2007/08 through 2010/11 for a new branch library facility for Sherrills Ford. The total estimated construction cost for Sherrills Ford is \$1,500,000 including land. These funds would come from the General Fund, Library reinventing dollars, and support from the Friends of the Sherrills Ford Branch Library.

Technology Infrastructure Upgrades

The Information Technology Center currently provides automation services to all County agencies. The County has an extensive network that encompasses wired communications, fiber communications, wireless communications, cable modem communications, and dial-up communications. The Information Technology Center must continually replace/upgrade these components to ensure that the County can continue to conduct business in an efficient and effective manner. In addition, the Information Technology Center provides personal computers and printers to all County Departments. Over the next few years we plan to provide high speed data access to emergency vehicles and remote agencies that will allow robust applications such as video camera access in public and private buildings, video streaming from the vehicles to the Communications Center, GISlayer access for utilities, and CAD drawings to buildings. We also plan to establish wireless network capabilities in the Library to enhance services to the public and wireless phone capabilities within various county buildings. Enhancing these wireless abilities and enabling broadband communications will require ongoing investment into existing infrastructure, consulting assistance to develop a long-range solution to our wireless infrastructure needs, and equipment to test new technology in select locations. \$200,000 is committed each year to fund ongoing infrastructure upgrades, enhance building wireless capabilities, and reserve funds to develop a high speed mobile wireless solution.

Schools' Construction Projects

Catawba County Schools

For Fiscal Year 2007/08, renovations are planned at both Bandys and Bunker Hill High School. Bandys renovations will include a new cafeteria; renovations to convert the existing cafeteria into three classrooms; a twelve classroom addition; the purchase of one acre of property; and air conditioning the gym. Bunker Hill renovations include a new cafeteria; renovations to convert the existing cafeteria into three classrooms; and athletic facilities improvements. Also included is a new Snow Creek Elementary School in the St. Stephens district.

Hickory City Schools

Fiscal Year 2007/08 includes funding for Hickory High School Phase I. Renovations include design work, roof replace, exterior window and asbestos replacement, and to enclose the open area between the main building and the gym.

Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC)

In Fiscal Year 2007/08, construction will begin on a permanent location for the Truck Driving Program on property owned by the college off Sweetwater Road. This will include the construction of classroom space and paving of several acres to operate the program. Also included are new roofs for the main building, west wing, Red Hall, and the furniture building. There are also plans for paving the old tennis courts next to the Cuyler Dunbar Building for a parking lot and constructing a new walkway from the Paap Building to the parking lot in front of the Student Services Building.

Water and Sewer Project Descriptions

EcoComplex and Regional Biosolids Processing Facility

The goal of this project is to relocate biosolids processing to the County's EcoComplex and utilize more efficient, state of the art, thermal drying equipment and other processes. Relocating the facility to the EcoComplex will allow the County to take advantage of synergies with other ongoing and planned activities; thus, providing for improved economics in the delivery of the services required by the County's citizenry and neighboring communities. \$350,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget for the continued research and preliminary design. A business plan is included in the design and implementation phase, which will establish a fee schedule and facility operational budget that replenishes 100% of the implementation cost to the water and sewer reserve fund and will function as an enterprise without requiring any tax proceeds.

EPA Stormwater Phase II

The State approved the Stormwater Phase II Regulations to take effect July 1, 2007. Funds are needed for the development and implementation of a local program to comply with State and Federal mandates. \$25,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget.

Feasibility Study and Engineering

Each year, the County samples seven points, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), along Lake Norman for water protection. This is an ongoing project, including \$11,000 for this year and \$12,000 each of the next four years, to ensure the safety of the water on Lake Norman and establishes a consistent water quality baseline.

Rocky Ford Road/Startown Road Water Loop

This project was initially introduced to the County by the City of Newton to enhance their ability to provide water service to industrial property on Highway 10 West. Additionally, this project will enhance the fire flow rates to the County's EcoComplex by looping the existing water line on Rocky Ford Road to the existing water line on Startown Road. This project consists of approximately 18,000 feet of water line with an estimated cost \$1,080,000 planned for Fiscal Year 2008/09 and 2009/10. However, \$160,000 for preliminary engineering and design costs is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget.

Sludge Composting Facility

Catawba County owns 18.5% of the Sludge Composting Facility, and this project represents the County's anticipated share of the debt service, maintenance, and operational costs of the facility, and engineering assessment of the existing equipment to evaluate the feasibility of usage in the EcoComplex and Regional Biosolids Processing Facility. \$350,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 as the County's share.

Solid Waste Capital Projects

EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility

The goal of this project is multi-faceted and will facilitate the conversion of the Blackburn Landfill into a true Resource Recovery Facility. This project is made up of many components including the relocation of the biosolids processing facility from the Fairgrove Business Park to the County's EcoComplex taking advantage of synergies with other ongoing and planned activities at the landfill, the creation of a Bio-Energy Facility, the locating of greenhouse and brick/pottery facilities, and the creation of a University research facility. This project will utilize existing heat energy sources from the Blackburn Co-Generation facility and new heat energy sources from the Bio-Energy Facility in efficient, state of the art, thermal drying equipment for the processing of wastewater sludge, and in providing heat/steam energy to G&G Lumber, Pallet One, and the brick/pottery facilities for use in their drying kilns. This project will provide energy and property for University research into biodiesel feedstock plants and their conversion into biodiesel fuel. Most importantly, this project will provide for improved economics for delivering the solid and bio-waste services required by the County's citizenry and neighboring communities. \$300,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget for the continued development and preliminary design.

Access Road Modifications from Blackburn Scales to Landfill

A new access road is needed from the Blackburn Landfill Scales to the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfill. The access road will allow for improved drainage of stormwater from Unit 2 and increase site visibility for vehicles entering the site. \$80,750 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget for the costs of engineering, surveying, compaction tests, stormwater culverts, and asphalt.

Convenience Center Improvements

New concrete pads that may be needed for the recycling containers and other site improvements to Convenience Centers. \$20,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget.

SubTitle D Landfill Unit 3 Phase I

Construction and Construction Quality Assurance (CQA)

Construction services of the SubTitle D Unit 3, Phase I, of the Blackburn Landfill's next 5-year cell. Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) is a state mandated service that provides assurance that the project is constructed in compliance with plans and specifications approved by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Solid Waste Section. The cost of construction and CQA is included in \$5,040,000 budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget.

Engineering Construction Inspection

Engineering construction inspection services for the construction phase of the SubTitle D Landfill, Unit 3, Phase I. \$95,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget.

Tub Grinder

A new grinder will replace a 1993 Morbark Tub Grinder that has 2,231 hours. The grinder is used to grind brush, trees, scrap furniture wood, and pallets into mulch to be used in the landfill during wet periods to keep dumping areas open, and sold to the public for personal use. The landfill receives approximately 8,000 tons of grindable material each year. The existing grinder will be traded in or declared surplus and sold. \$500,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007/08.